

30 Years in Griffith Park with Stag Brown

By Bob (Bobcat J) Thompson

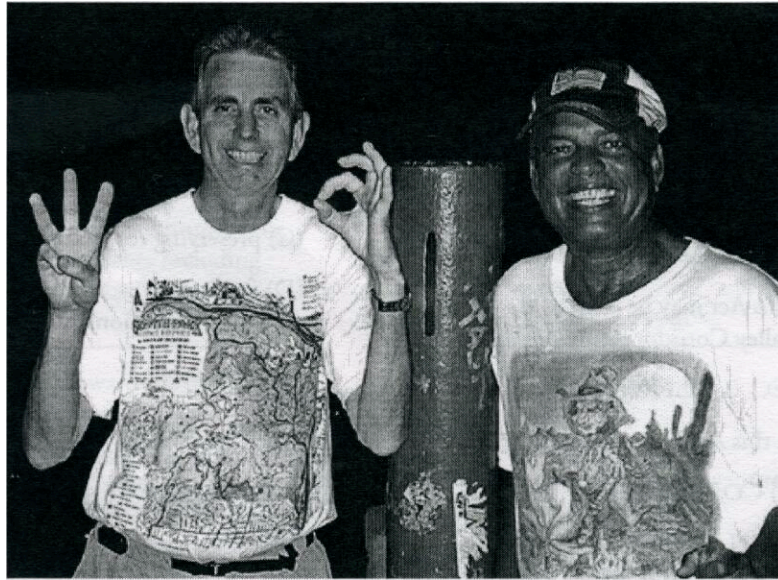
Dateline: Griffith Park -- August 24, 1975. After 3 years of hiking with the Hundred Peaks Section, Stag Brown invited me to come on an evening hike in Griffith Park. I think, why would a "mountaineer" like me want to hike in a "flat" park dotted with picnic tables and barbecues? Little did I know what lay in store for me on a "Stag" hike!

Needless to say, I said yes, showed-up for the 7 p.m. hike, and the rest is history. The rugged backcountry of the park had miles of trails and "adventures" awaiting us. With friends like Joe Young, Mike Baldwin and countless others over the years, we roamed the hi-ways and by-ways of the Park every Wednesday night for 30 years!

With Stag leading the way, we had "close encounters" with rattlers, deer, coyote, tarantulas, mountain lion, bees, 2-legged coyotes, owls, skunks, glow worms, frogs and countless other "critters of the night." We got to know the park like the back of our hands, climbing up

Mt. Hollywood, Mt. Chapel, Mt. Bell, Mr. Lee, Cahuenga Peak, Glendale Peak, Beacon Hill and countless other "bumps in the night". Neither rain nor heat nor snow nor gloom of night would stay these hikers from the swift ascent of their peaks!

Dateline: Griffith Park - August 24, 2005. Here we are all gathered together again for our Wednesday night hike. Stag is still leading the hike after 30 years in the Park. About 30 intrepid hikers follow "Moses" Brown up to the "Promised Land", Mt. Hollywood, and Stag stopping often to let the "newbies" catch up. At 8:15, we are all on top the mountain, me for the 888th time, and Stag, who knows how many times! It is a "hot August night" and we can see the lights on at Dodger Stadium and views for miles in every direction. After a few minutes in this surreal world, we head back down



to the trailhead and a "tailgate parry" celebrating Stag's 30 years of leading hikes in the Park.

Here's to the next 30 years. "Hip-Hip-Hooray" for Stag and all the great leaders in Griffith Park who, over the years, have made Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights in the Park an "adventure" to look forward to. "See ya next week, Stag!"

*Scanned from Griffith Park Guardian, Fall 2005
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